whose story I will present here because it is characteristic of the situation in Bukhara. The man in question had stolen a sum of about 100,000 marks from a rich merchant and had absconded with his booty to Afghanistan, the America for all of Central Asia. Since the Emir, for this reason, had no way of taking him into custody, he called two of his secret policemen and ordered them to deliver the thief, dead or alive; if they did not, he would have their throats cut; this is the usual perspective for all those who do not succeed in carrying out the orders of the emir which are often quite impossible to fulfill. The two unlucky detectives started on their way dressed as workers, stopped the thief, who had already bought himself wares and a caravan for the stolen gold, and hired themselves out to him as camel drivers. They had to trot along for several weeks on foot behind their victim until they finally /217/ obtained a favorable opportunity to carry out their plan. Then they fell upon the thief during the night, as he slept in the midst of his armed escort, gagged him, and carried him on their shoulders all the way to the Amu-Darya. Naturally they were in constant danger of death because they dared not allow themselves to be met by the Afghans who would have strung them up without further ado. They could therefore march with their dangerous burden only at night and by roundabout ways, but they finally brought their victim successfully to Bukhara. The Emir sentenced the culprit to death by throat-cutting, but since this form of death did not please the prisoner, he confessed that he had also snatched some property from the wakf. This was pure fabrication, but because of it he was sentenced to the ultimate punishment, to be thrown down from the minaret, which is what he had wished. 681

Shooting is used only rarely, and strangely enough, only against women who are found guilty of adultery, prostitution and the like, or whom the khan, for whatever reasons, wishes to punish or simply to eliminate. These are shot with pistols. Those wives of whom the khans have grown weary are not killed but are given away by the khans to their favorites. Thus, for example, the deposed Khan of Kokand, before his transfer to Orenburg /Chkalov/, divided his numerous harem in Tashkent among his acquaintances. Adulteresses were also stoned in earlier times. To this end they were buried in the ground up to the breast, and then stoned to death by the public with rocks or clods of earth. [684]

Until the introduction of Russian rule in Kokand, impalement was also in use, being carried out in different ways. Either the condemned was simply thrust on a sharpened stake, as was also the custom earlier in Turkey, or he was bound to a two-wheeled wagon, with his legs clasped on the wagon shaft, while the stake was fastened to another